

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 13, 2004
5 p.m

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

CONTACT: Rosanne Pack
(302) 659-2210
(302) 222-6573

Delaware continues to monitor Charley

One tropical storm has moved out of Delaware; however, state officials are closely monitoring the second active storm, Hurricane Charley, which is expected to bring heavy rains to the state by late afternoon, Saturday, August 14. Rainfall that could be as heavy as six inches in some areas of the state is forecast to continue into early morning hours of Sunday, August 15.

Rains associated with Tropical Storm Bonnie have abated in Delaware with levels being slightly less than predicted. Hurricane Charley, which made landfall in Florida as a Category 4 storm, is predicted to bring heavier rains and slightly stronger winds. Charley is forecast to weaken as it moves north over land and be downgraded to Tropical Storm or Depression by the time it reaches Delmarva. According to the National Weather Service, the rainfall is expected to be two to four inches in most areas with some isolated areas getting downpours of up to six inches. Winds are expected to be in the range of 20 mph with the possibility of gusts up to 40 mph.

According to the NWS, these weather conditions also spawn tornadoes. The public is advised to monitor local weather reports and be prepared to shelter in the central and lowest area of their home should funnel clouds be spotted.

Delaware Emergency Management Agency officials and those of local emergency management offices, law enforcement, utilities, fire and emergency medical responders and other relevant state and local organizations continue to maintain communications with the NWS to ensure that the state is prepared for the potential of localized flooding or other storm-related issues.

With the potential for power outages and roads closed by flooding, emergency officials remind people to have a supply of water, batteries, nonperishable foods, portable radios and emergency cash. Should travel be necessary in periods of heavy rain, drivers are cautioned to avoid driving through standing water. Also, children should not be allowed to play or walk in areas of flooding.

At this time, there is no indication that there will be tidal, river or back bay flooding. However, there is potential for some stream and creek flooding as well as heavy ponding in low-lying areas. Because of recent heavy rains in areas of northern Delaware, waterlogged soil might result in some downed trees; appropriate caution is advised.

---END---